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SOVIET AID TO ALBANIA

MARCH, SEPTEMBER 1949 SHIPMENTS FROM USSR

At the beginning of September 1949, Albania received economic aid from the USSR without a payment deadline. Among the items received were 21,246 tons of wheat, 227 ZIS-trucks with trailers, 2,587 auto bodies, 16 railroad cars, 4,716 tons of construction iron, railroad tracks, and iron parts; 3,025,345 meters of textiles; window glass, drugs, and consumers' goods.

In March 1949, the USSR supplied Albania with equipment for a textile combine with a yearly capacity of 26,600 cubic ¹/_{sec} meters, for a wood-impregnating factory, for a plywood factory, for an iron drum factory, and for a rice-cleaning factory, as well as plumbing pipes, machinery for the hydroelectric power plant in Selite which has a capacity of 6,000 kilowatts, machinery and instruments for a petroleum combine, and equipment for chrome and lignite mines.

ALBANIAN INDUSTRY

In 1946, the Albanian government invested 14 million lek for industry; in 1947, 179 million lek; and in 1948, 192 million lek.

Industrial production in 1947 and 1948 compares with prewar production as follows (1938 = 100):

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	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>
Power	814	1,273
Chemical industry	154	282
Construction materials	83	162
Lumber	800	1,796 [or 1,785]
Food products	176	213
Leather industry	325	549
Textile industry	100	948
Tobacco industry	203	335

Capital investments under the Two-Year Plan for the development of industry (not including mines) will be 1,103,000,000 lek, of which 384 million will be spent in 1949 and 719 million in 1950.

The plan calls for the construction of a large cotton and paper combine in Tirana with a yearly capacity of 20 million square meters of fabric. The USSR is to supply the equipment. Construction of the combine began in July 1949; the combine will be in operation in 1950. The entire investment for the combine will be 374 million lek. The plan also provides for the construction of a factory for the initial processing of hemp and wool, as well as equipping existing factories with new machines.

The plan calls for the construction of a large sugar factory with a yearly capacity of 10,000 tons in the Maliq (Korce) Valley. The factory will begin production in 1951. Construction of the factory began at the end of May 1949. The total planned capital investment was 205 million lek, of which 41 million will be for 1949 and 164 million for 1950. The machinery will be provided by the USSR.

The plan also calls for the construction of a vegetable oil factory with a yearly capacity of 4,000 tons, and the rationalization of existing macaroni factories during 1949 so that their production capacity will be 246 percent in 1950 as compared to 1948.

The plan provides for the completion of the hydroelectric power plant at Selite, so that it will be in operation in 1951. A total of 274 million lek will be invested in the project. The machinery and other equipment will be provided by the USSR. The plan also calls for the improvement of existing power plants and for research on the possibilities of further electrification.

In order that the Two-Year Plan may be fulfilled, all brick factories will increase their production, so that their capacity of 9 million bricks in 1948 will be increased to 23 million in 1950.

The plan calls for the construction and operation of two wood-drying factories, a wood-impregnating factory, a plywood factory, and a cardboard factory, and for the equipping of existing sawmills with various machines and instruments. The annual production capacity of the two wood-drying factories will be 25,000 cubic meters, of the plywood factory 3,000 cubic meters, of the cardboard factory 100 tons, and of the sawmills 66,000 cubic meters.

Studies will be made in preparation for the construction of a cement factory with a yearly capacity of 40,000 tons.

Shoe production in 1950 is expected to be 772 percent greater than in 1948.

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The construction of a tobacco-processing factory will permit the annual processing of 1,500 tons of tobacco.

The operation of the new foundry in the "Enver" Enterprise will permit an increase to 355 tons of iron in 1950 as compared to 57 tons in 1948.

ALBANIAN COMMERCE UNDER THE TWO-YEAR PLAN

Albanian local resources plus imports from the USSR and Satellite countries will make possible an increase in commercial operations of 91.1 percent in 1949 as compared to 1938, and of 123.9 percent in 1950.

The state sector will account for 43.6 percent of all the merchandise turnover in 1949, the cooperative sector 42 percent, and the private sector 16 percent [figures as in text]. In 1950, the merchandise turnover for the state sector will be 47.5 percent, for the cooperative sector 43.3 percent, and for the private sector 9 percent.

The different categories of consumers' goods in the state and cooperative sectors as compared to 1948 will be increased in 1949 by 126 percent for manufactured goods, 17.5 percent for food products, and 116 percent for shoes.

In 1950, the increase [over 1948] for manufactured goods will be 189.7 percent, for shoes 124.8 percent, and for food products 136.2 percent. The distribution of the above products to individual consumers will be increased as compared to 1948 to 117 percent in 1949 and to 135.84 percent in 1950.

In 1938, consumers' goods constituted 94 percent of all imports, while capital goods amounted to only 6 percent. In 1949, 65.18 percent of the imports were capital goods and only 34.12 percent were consumers' goods. In 1950, the imports of capital investment goods will make up an even greater proportion.

The 1949 exports increased to 431.8 percent as compared to 1938 and 135.5 percent as compared to 1948. The 1950 exports will rise to 622 percent as compared to 1938 and to 195.2 percent as compared to 1948.

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